

# Executive Summary

To keep pace with the growth of Hollister, the City Council commissioned the Park Facility Master Plan to identify specific recreation facility needs, opportunities for park acquisition and development, and an action plan to implement park development recommendations.

## **COMMUNITY GROWTH & PARK ACREAGE NEEDS**

Hollister is projected to grow to 42,118 by 2010. Based on Hollister's parkland goal of 4 acres per thousand population, an additional 110 acres will need to be acquired over the next ten years.

## **PARKLAND ACQUISITION**

Due to increasing land prices and ever decreasing availability of available parcels, the City's first priority should be to identify and acquire land for future park development. The City should continue to plan and develop neighborhood school parks where possible.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SIZE & DISTRIBUTION**

New parks should be located to maximize facility availability to residents, beginning with currently underserved neighborhoods. Five acre neighborhood parks are recommended so that all residents live within walking distance (1/2 mile).

The availability of land in developed neighborhoods may be limited. Less than five acre parks are recommended only where the availability of land in developed neighborhoods is limited.

## **RECREATION PROGRAM NEEDS**

The growth of City league programs and private recreation organizations are limited only to the availability of recreation facilities. The City currently partners with individual and private organizations to fulfill requests for programs. Meeting rooms and activity spaces are limited with increasing demands on school facilities.

The City needs to continue to focus on provided alternative recreation programs for community youth needs.

## **PARK FACILITY NEEDS**

To meet the demands for active and passive recreation needs, a range of facilities are needed to meet current and future demand:

- Walking and bicycle trails
- Additional playgrounds and picnic facilities
- Additional sports fields for organized and practice play
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Aquatics facility
- BMX play area
- Dog off-leash area
- Equestrian facilities

## **EXISTING FACILITIES**

Expanding or renovating the facilities at existing parks are a cost effective means to better serve residents. Potential park additions are:

- Rancho San Justo: playground and restrooms
- Cerra Vista Park: tot play and picnic area
- Vista Park Hill: picnic and playground renovation; dog off-leash and BMX bike area.

## **NEW COMMUNITY PARK**

Residents express a desire for a large community park (20–30 acres) which can provide space for more diverse recreation, such as an aquatics facility and passive open space.

## **INDOOR RECREATION & AQUATICS FACILITIES**

The City should continue to partner with the Hollister School District to develop gymnasium facilities. Renovation of the Veterans Memorial Building gym will expand recreation opportunities for residents.

Hollister should acquire land and partner with the YMCA to provide additional indoor recreation and affordable aquatics facilities for City residents.

## **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE**

To accommodate increased maintenance demands, approvals for parks should include an evaluation of maintenance resources needed and how additional operation and maintenance will be provided.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

To provide adequate funding for acquisition and complete development of new neighborhood parks, development impact fees through the Quimby Act and AB1600 should be established to meet current neighborhood park facility costs. Fee adjustment mechanism should be established to account for increased land values and construction inflation.

Based on master plan recommendations, the current cost (2001 dollars) for acquisition and development of parkland for the next ten years is \$19,894,750–22,894,750, including indoor recreation and aquatics facility structures.

The budget could vary significantly depending on changing priorities and variations in design programs. A number of funding sources have been identified to meet capital improvements, including general fund, redevelopment fund, park development impact fees, grants, donations, and joint projects with other agencies.